



Public Affairs Section United States Embassy Nairobi



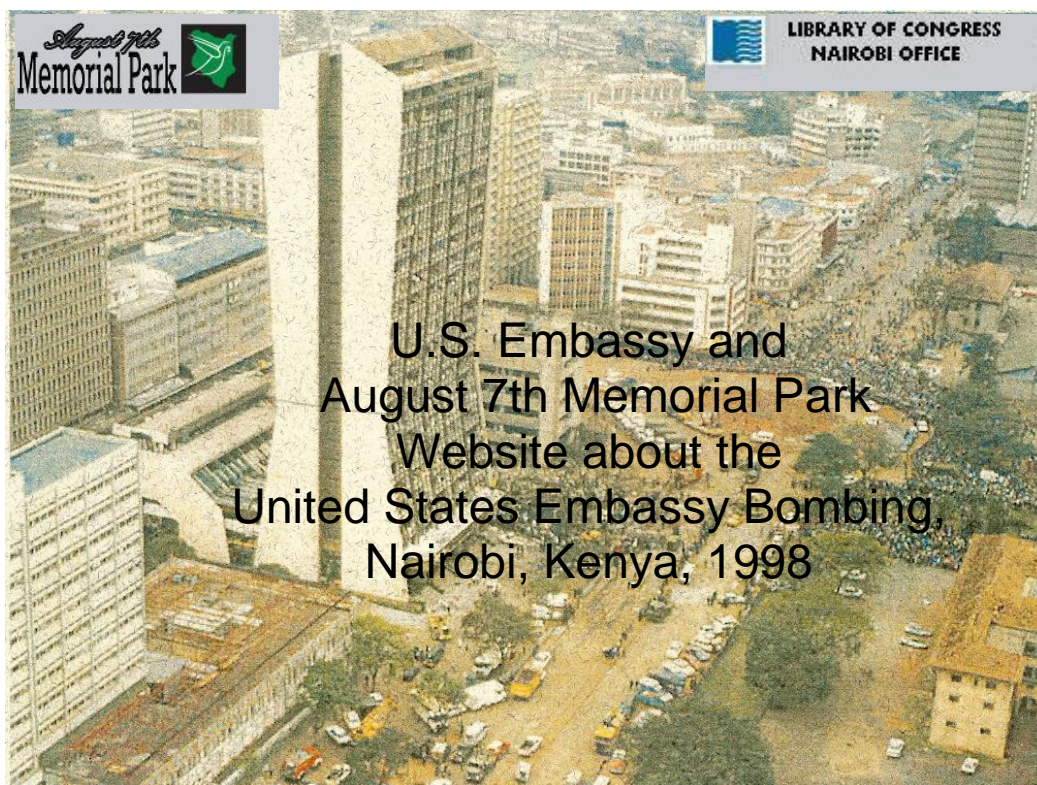
Nairobi Office Director Pamela Howard-Reguindin hands over website/CD-Rom to Esther Amunga, General Manager of the August 7th Memorial Park as U.S. Ambassador Ranneberger (left) and William Lay, Chair of the Memorial Park Board of Trustees (right) look on. (Photo by Gilbert Otieno)

Nairobi U.S. Embassy Bombing Remembered and Archives Digitized

The U.S. Embassy in Nairobi recently commemorated the eleventh anniversary of the bombing that destroyed the former embassy building, one of the earliest major assaults against the U.S. by Al-Qaeda. The Library of Congress Overseas Office in Nairobi worked along with the Department of State and the August 7th Memorial Park (created on the site of the former embassy) to organize and digitize the Memorial Park and Embassy's archival collections about the tragic event. Although the central mission for the Library's overseas offices is to acquire scholarly materials in over 80 countries, often they work on special, collaborative projects to enhance access to unique collections of interest to researchers worldwide and Congress.

Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Pamela Slutz had collected and organized many newspaper articles, official correspondence (cables, emails and snail mail messages), testimonials, meeting minutes and official reports about the bombing. The Memorial Park administration also has a large collection of images and testimonials from victims and eyewitnesses about the event that they wished to share with a wider audience.

DCM Slutz invited the LOC Nairobi office director, Pamela Howard-Reguindin, to further organize and digitize the materials and funded a summer intern, Erik Sullivan of Loyola University (New Orleans), to assist with the project. Rolling up their sleeves, Erik and Pamela refined the organization of the materials into LCSH sub-divisions following the 9/11/2001 example and scanned several hundred documents and thousands of photographs and testimonials. George Kuria, the IT specialist in the Nairobi Office, lent a hand in creating the website opening pages and CD (which are still more used in Africa than in the US since Internet access is less common in many parts). It was this office's first foray into creating a website with DreamWeaver and digitizing full text documents. This new website will eventually be hosted by the August 7th Memorial Park and the Department of State, but is not yet online.



Introductory page and cover of the website/CD (Photo by Jacob Otieno)

The website/CD contains the following information:

- Embassy Archives of the Bombing, selected documents
- 450+ Kenyan newspaper articles about the bombing from (former office field director) Ruth Thomas's *Kenya Indexing Project* (www.IndexKenya.org) database.
- Full text of *Up from the Ashes: Lessons learned from the Bombing*.
- Digitized minutes of the August 7th Memorial Park Trustees' meetings from 2002-09

- Internet Resource Guide by Erik Sullivan and Pamela Howard-Reguindin, including LCCN Permalinks to LOC bibliographic records.

Although there are literally thousands of websites with information pertaining to this event, this new website/CD will serve as an excellent starting point for research into the event itself, the devastating aftermath and long lasting effects of this particular tragedy.



Photo credits from left to right:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/africa/03/machoku_gallery/html/

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Us-embassy-nairobi-bombing-1998.jpg>

<http://www.welt.de/english-news/article2283085/Kenya-and-Tanzania-mark-decade-since-US-embassy-bombs>



<http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/>